

# **Community 101:**

## ***An Overview of the Superfund Program***



# **Welcome to the Superfund Workshop for Communities**



# **Today's Workshop Will Provide Answers to Common Questions**

- What is "Superfund"?
- What happens when a polluted site is discovered?
- Who pays to clean up the pollution?
- How can you get involved?
- What is Environmental Justice?
- Where do I look for additional information?

# Workshop Agenda

- Overview of Superfund
- Response
  - ▶ Emergency Response Situations
  - ▶ Non-Emergency Situations
- EPA's Community Involvement Program
- EPA's Environmental Justice Initiative
- Getting More Information
  - ▶ EPA Regional Offices
  - ▶ State & Local Sources

**Module**  
*One*

# Overview of Superfund



**Fort Devens Superfund Site - Devens, MA**

# What is Superfund?

- Superfund was established in 1980 by an act of Congress authorizing funds for the cleanup of polluted sites

**Superfund** *Cleaning up the Nation's  
Hazardous Waste Sites*

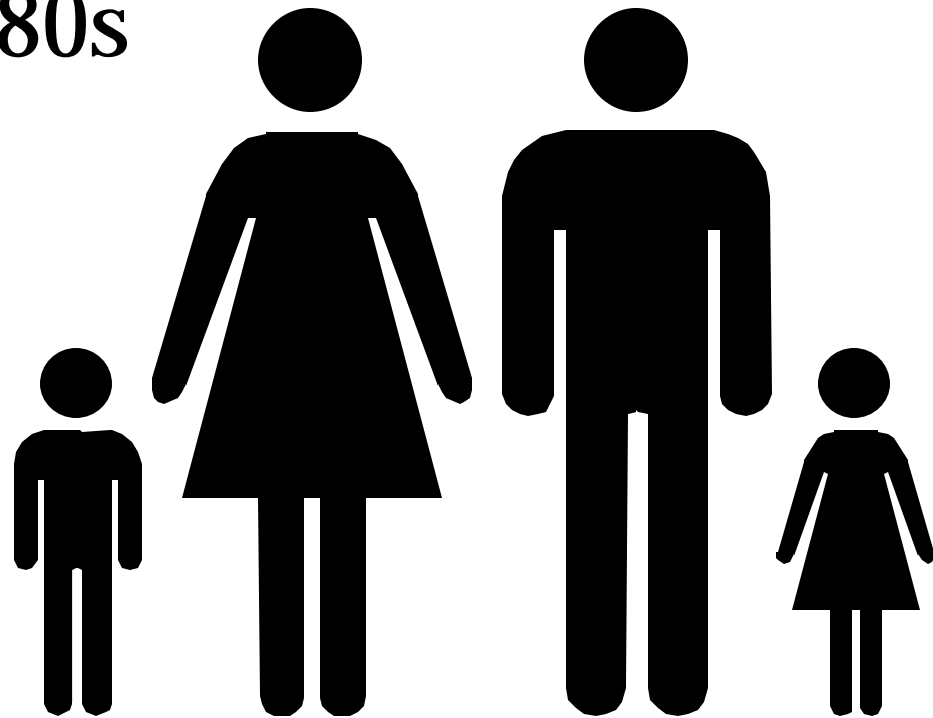
# Goals of Superfund

- Protect human health and the environment by cleaning up polluted sites
- Involve communities in the cleanup process
- Make responsible parties pay for cleanups
- Return previously-polluted land to productive use



# How Did This Problem Begin?

- Little attention was given to hazardous waste until three sites made national headlines in the 1970s and early 1980s



# Love Canal, New York (1978)



# Valley of the Drums, Kentucky (1979)



# Times Beach, Missouri (1982)



# Why the Concern About Hazardous Waste?

- Hazardous waste can affect your health
- Hazardous waste can pollute your environment
  - ▶ Surface Water
  - ▶ Ground Water
  - ▶ Soil
  - ▶ Air
- Hazardous waste is not always easy to smell, taste, or see



# **Who is Responsible for Cleaning Up the Site?**

- **Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)**
- **State Governments**
- **Federal Government**

# Paying for the Cleanup

- Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) pay
- If PRPs cannot pay or cannot be found, then the "Superfund" pays
  - ▶ The "Superfund" is a trust fund of monies mainly from taxes on crude oil and commercially-used chemicals



# How Sites Qualify for Superfund

- EPA has a set of criteria to identify, evaluate, and rank polluted sites
- This process determines if a site is dangerous to communities or the environment



**Module**

**Two**

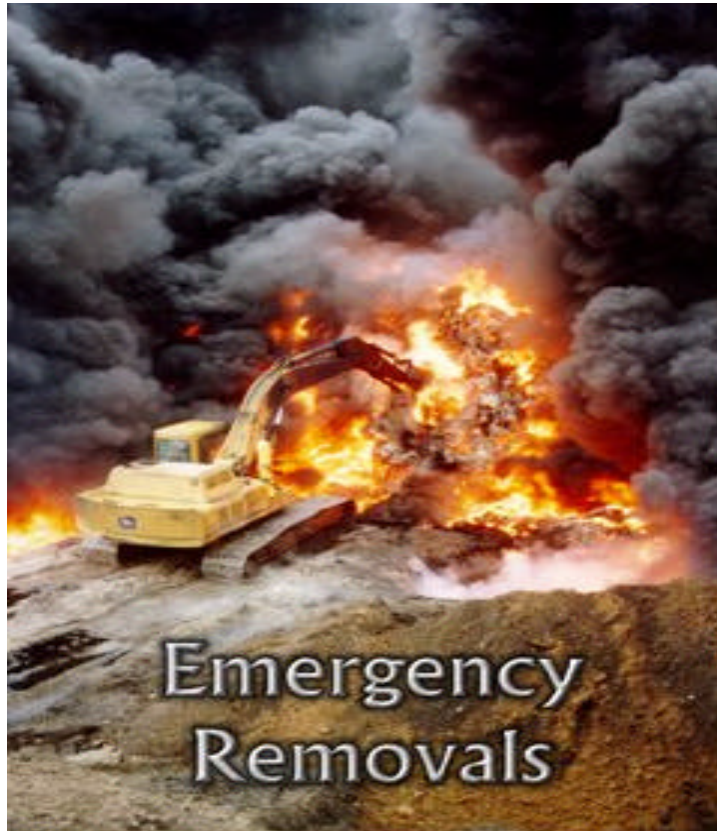
# Superfund Response



# Types of Response

- There are two basic types of response that EPA uses to clean up polluted sites
  - ▶ **Removal responses:** Used to clean up emergency spills
  - ▶ **Remedial responses:** Used to clean up complex sites needing long-term cleanup actions

# EPA Response to Emergencies (Removal Actions)



# **Short Term Cleanup Actions**

- Time-Critical Actions
- Non-Time-Critical Actions

# Emergency Situations

- Include hazardous waste spills that require immediate attention
- These are limited, short-term cleanup actions which may be due to:
  - ▶ Tanker spills
  - ▶ Leaking drums
  - ▶ Drinking water contamination

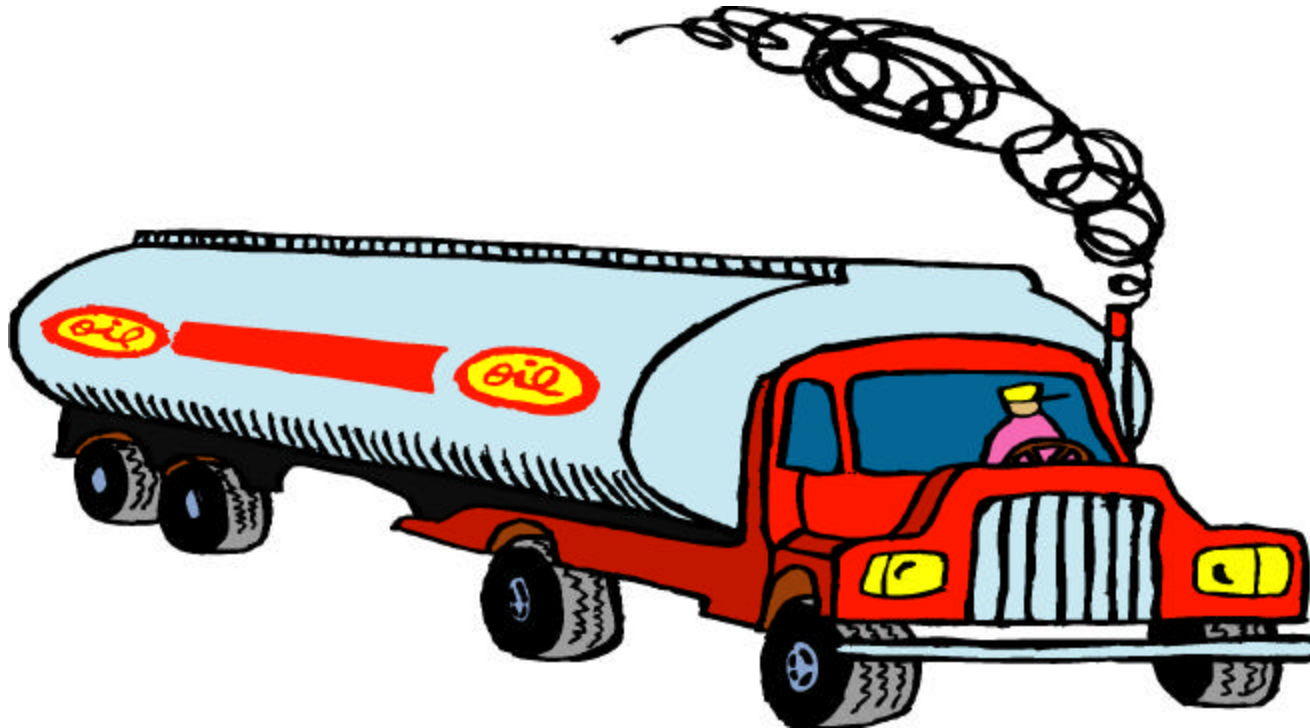


# Short-term/ Non-Term Critical Cleanups

- Dependent on:
  - ▶ the actual or potential exposure to humans and animals from hazardous substances
  - ▶ the levels of hazardous substances or pollutants that may migrate
  - ▶ threat of fire or explosion



# Long-term Cleanup Actions





# Non-Emergency Situations

- **"Remedial Response"** actions address releases that do not pose immediate threats to public health or the environment
- These are long-term cleanup actions
- EPA begins the process of determining if a site qualifies for cleanup under Superfund

# Site Discovery

- Potential pollution releases are reported by State agencies or the general public
- EPA investigates
- All important parties are notified



# Preliminary Assessment (PA)

- Review site information
- Screen site to determine risk of pollution release



# Site Inspection (SI)

- Test air, water, or soil at the site



# Evaluate Risk

- Use a standard system (**Hazard Ranking System**) to score potential risk factors
  - ▶ How harmful is the substance?
  - ▶ Does it threaten the human food chain?
  - ▶ Does it threaten the air or soil?
  - ▶ Does it threaten ground water?
  - ▶ Is the substance migrating from the source?

# Evaluate Risk (continued)

- Sites scoring at or above an established level are proposed for the National Priorities List (NPL)
- This means that the site qualifies for cleanup under the Superfund Program  
**(NPL Listing)**



# **OK...So the Site is on the NPL. What Next?**

- The next steps show how EPA, States, and Potentially Responsible Parties (PRP) develop, design, and conduct cleanups at Superfund sites



# Remedial Investigation (RI)

- More site information helps identify what is needed for cleanup
  - ▶ Types of chemicals
  - ▶ Amount of chemicals
  - ▶ Sensitive populations



# **Feasibility Study (FS)**

- Cleanup options are developed
- The best cleanup option is chosen

# Feasibility Study (FS)

- The nine factors in selecting the type of cleanup include:
  - ▶ Community acceptance
  - ▶ Protection of human health and the environment
  - ▶ Compliance with ARARs
  - ▶ Long-term effectiveness and permanence
  - ▶ Reduction of toxicity, mobility, and volume
  - ▶ Short-term effectiveness
  - ▶ Implementability
  - ▶ Cost
  - ▶ State acceptance

# Selecting a Remedy

- A Proposed Plan informs the public on the preferred cleanup option (**Remedy Selection**)
- The public reviews and comments on the Proposed Plan, either in writing or at the public meeting.
- All relevant documents are maintained in the information repository.

# **Record of Decision (ROD)**

- A final decision on the cleanup (Record of Decision) is released, which includes cleanup goals, significant changes to the proposed remedy (if any), possible hazardous substances remaining on the site, further analysis and review, and appropriate time frame.

# Designing a Remedy (RD)

- Plans and specifications for the chosen cleanup are finalized (**Remedial Design**)



# Remedial Action (RA)

- After all the "behind the scenes" planning, cleanup activities at the site begin
- The selected remedy is implemented (**Remedial Action**)



# Construction Complete

- Once all on-site physical construction is done, the site is listed as "**Construction Complete**"
- This does not mean that cleanup is done, just that:
  - ▶ The methods and materials to do the cleanup are in place
  - ▶ All immediate threats have been addressed
  - ▶ Long-term threats are being controlled

# Operation & Maintenance (O&M)

- Ensure that the required equipment is installed and that the remedy is operational and functional
  - ▶ EPA monitors the site cleanup process
  - ▶ Site responsibility transfers to the State or PRPs





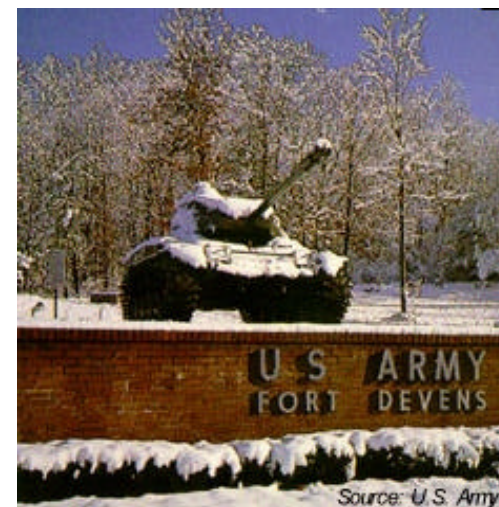
# Delisting

- When cleanup levels are met, **Operation & Maintenance** is complete
- The site is removed from the National Priorities List (**NPL Deletion**)



# Return to Productive Use

- Over 190 Superfund sites have been returned to productive use under the Superfund Redevelopment Initiative



**Module**

***Three***

# **Your Chance to be Heard: EPA's Community Involvement (CI) Program**



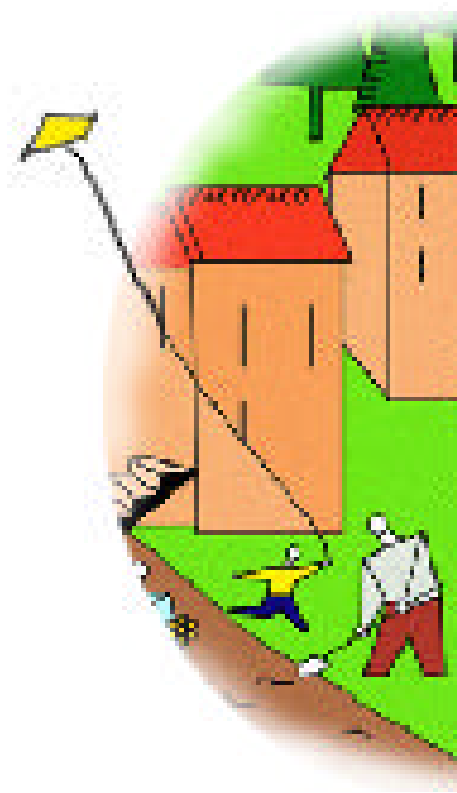
# What is Community Involvement?

- Individuals potentially affected by a site have a voice in the cleanup process
- EPA's Regional staff help communities get involved by providing:
  - ▶ Educational materials
  - ▶ Outreach activities
  - ▶ Site information
  - ▶ Training
  - ▶ Technical assistance
  - ▶ Other support



# EPA's CI Goals

- Keep you informed in the cleanup process
- Provide opportunities for you to comment and provide input
- Resolve community issues related to the site



# **Community Involvement Programs**

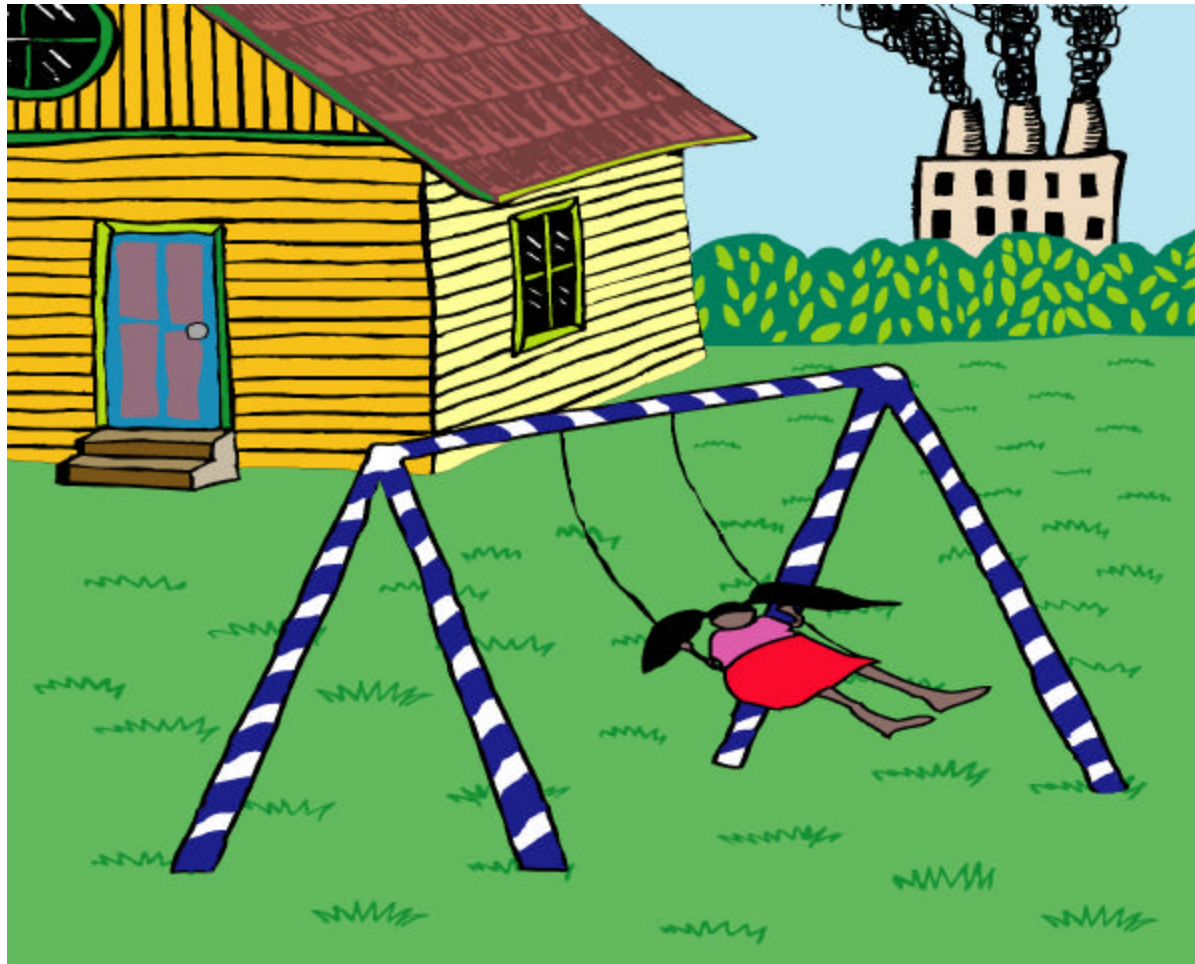
- **Community Advisory Groups (CAGs)**
- **Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs)**
- **Technical Outreach Services for Communities (TOSC)**
- **Superfund Jobs Training Initiative (SuperJTI)**
- **Translation of information into local languages and dialects**

# Ways The Public Can Get Involved

- Attend public meetings and hearings
- Participate in community information sessions
- Join/Form a Community Advisory Group
- Visit local information repository sites
- Contact your local Community Involvement Coordinator and/or Site Manager



# What is Environmental Justice (EJ)?



# Environmental Justice: Treating Everyone Fairly

- Former President Bill Clinton established Environmental Justice as a national priority (Executive Order 12898)
- To ensure "the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes regarding the development of environmental laws, regulations, and policies"



# EPA's Environmental Justice Goals

- Environmental Justice focuses attention on environmental and human health conditions of minority and low-income communities
- Work with communities to:
  - ▶ Improve environmental education
  - ▶ Provide training opportunities
  - ▶ Create partnerships with academic institutions



# EPA's Environmental Justice Programs

- Encourage public participation by all affected community members by:
  - ▶ Translating publications and fact sheets into locally-spoken languages and dialects
  - ▶ Providing translators and interpreters at meetings
  - ▶ Providing forums for community outreach



# Additional EJ Information

- **EPA Office of Environmental Justice**

- ▶ U.S. EPA (MC-1101)

- Ariel Rios Building

- 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW

- Washington, D.C. 20460

- ▶ ***<http://es.epa.gov/oeca/main/ej/index.html>***

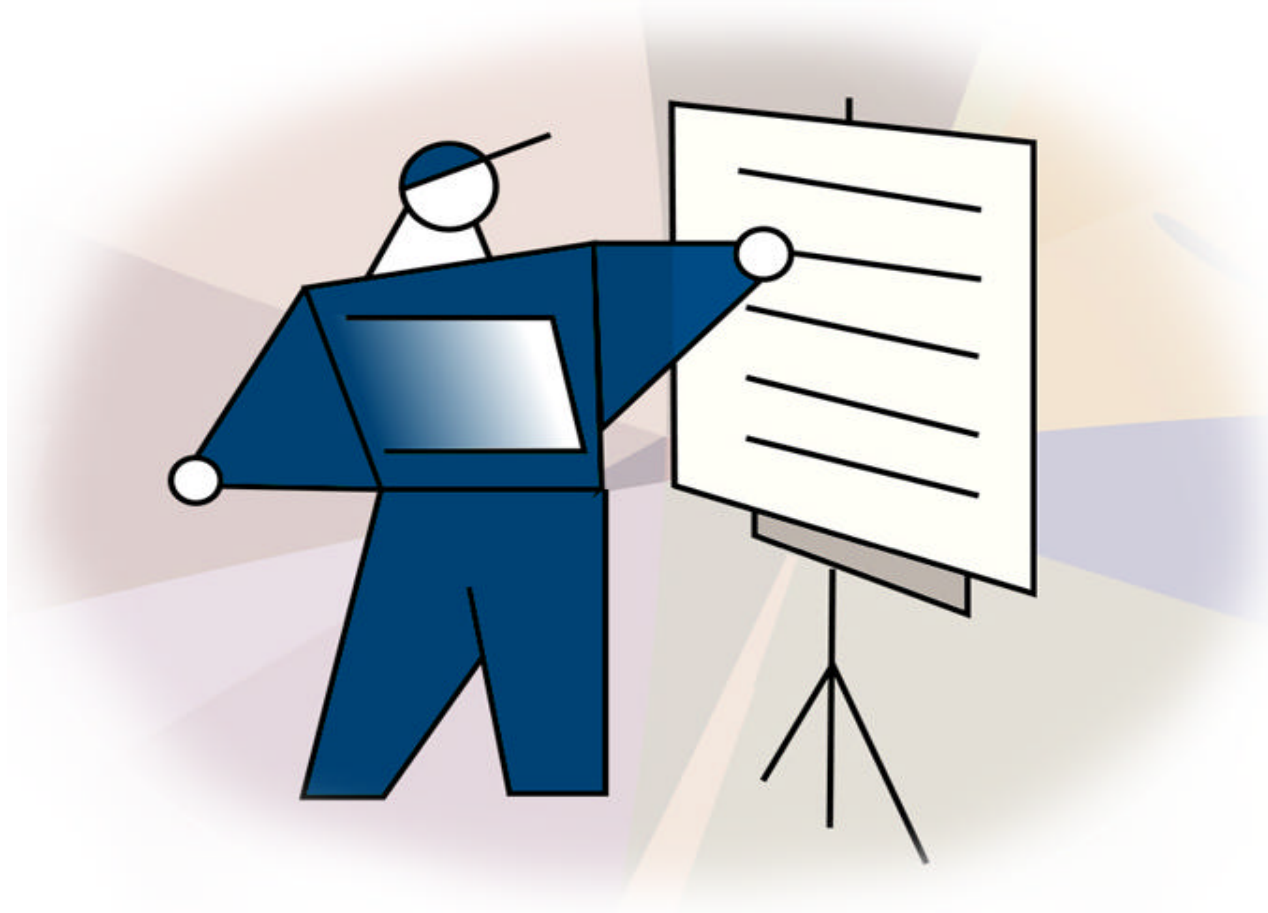
- **National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC)**

- ▶ ***<http://es.epa.gov/oeca/oej/nejac/>***

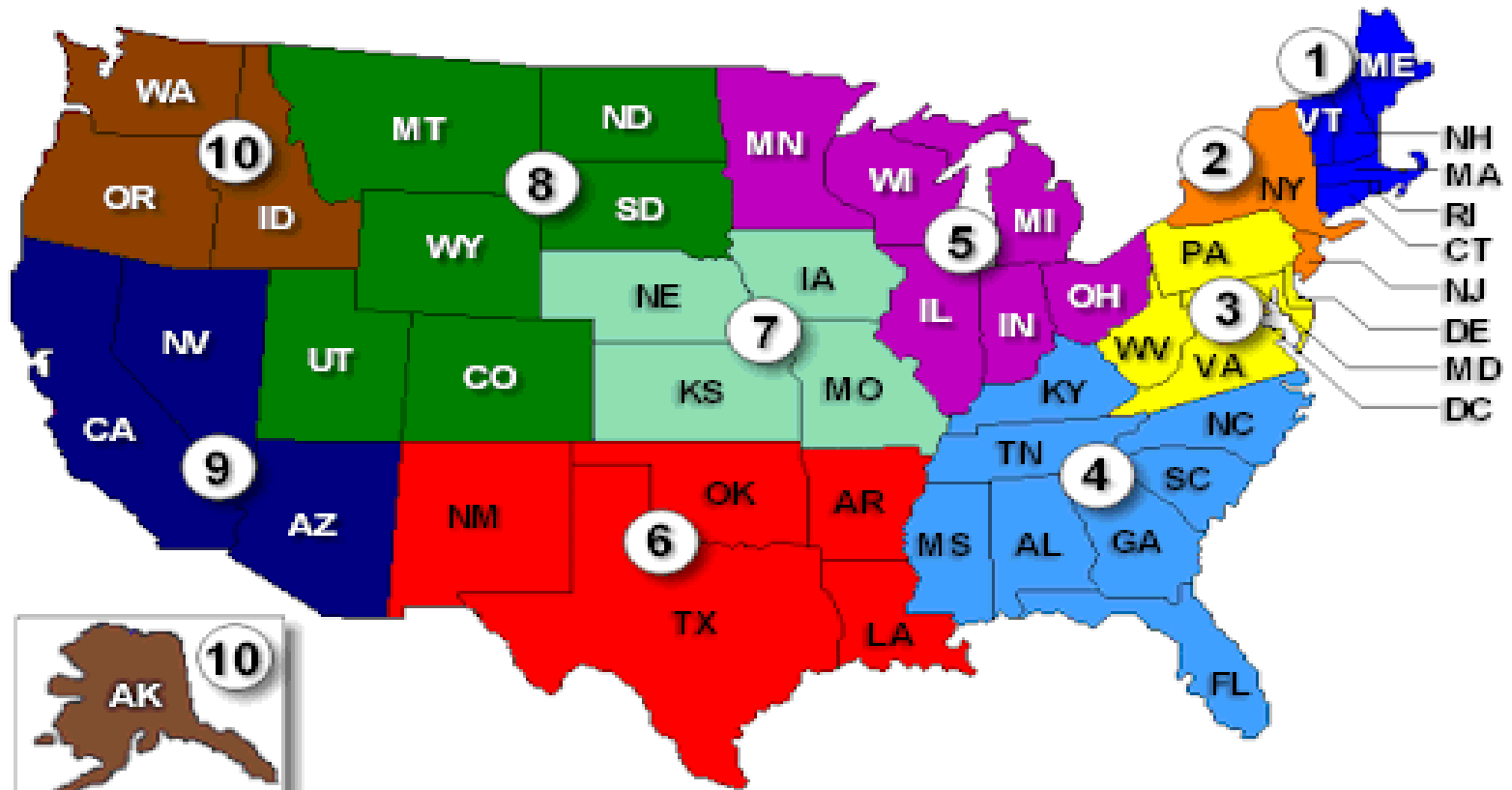
**Module**

***Four***

# Sources of Information



# EPA Regional Offices



...other Region 9 sites

- ▶ Guam
- ▶ American Samoa
- ▶ Trust Territories

...other Region 2 sites

- ▶ Puerto Rico
- ▶ Virgin Islands

- ▶ Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands



# EPA Region 1

- Connecticut
  - Maine
  - Massachusetts
  - New Hampshire
  - Rhode Island
  - Vermont
- Regional CI Office**  
Boston, MA  
(617) 918-1064  
1-888-372-7341

[http://www.epa.gov/  
region01/remed/superfund](http://www.epa.gov/region01/remed/superfund)



# EPA Region 2

- New Jersey
  - New York
  - Puerto Rico
  - Virgin Islands
- Regional CI Office**  
New York, NY  
(212) 637-3673  
1-800-346-5009

<http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/superfnd.htm>



# EPA Region 3

- Delaware
- Maryland
- Pennsylvania
- Virginia
- Washington, DC
- West Virginia

**Regional CI Office**

Philadelphia, PA

(215) 814-5131

1-800-553-2509



[http://www.epa.gov/  
reg3hwmd/super/](http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/)

# EPA Region 4

- Alabama
- Florida
- Georgia
- Kentucky
- Mississippi
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Tennessee

## Regional CI Office

Atlanta, GA

(404) 562-8530

**AL, FL, GA, MS** residents

1-800-435-9234

**KY, NC, SC, TN** residents

1-800-435-9233

[http://www.epa.gov/  
region4/waste/sf/  
supfnd.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region4/waste/sf/supfnd.htm)



# EPA Region 5

- Illinois
- Indiana
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Ohio
- Wisconsin

<http://www.epa.gov/R5Super/>

## Regional CI Office

Chicago, IL

(312) 353-2072

1-800-621-8431



Illinois • Indiana • Michigan • Minnesota • Ohio • Wisconsin

# EPA Region 6

- Arkansas
- Louisiana
- New Mexico
- Oklahoma
- Texas

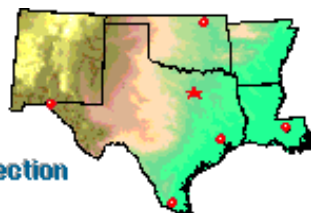
<http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sf/6sf.htm>

## Regional CI Office

Dallas, TX

(214) 665-8157

1-800-533-3508



**REGION 6**  
Arkansas Louisiana  
New Mexico  
Oklahoma Texas

# EPA Region 7

- Iowa
- Kansas
- Missouri
- Nebraska

[http://www.epa.gov/  
region07/programs/  
spfd/spfd.html](http://www.epa.gov/region07/programs/spfd/spfd.html)

## **Regional CI Office**

Kansas City, KS

(913) 551-7969

1-800-223-0425

# EPA Region 8

- Colorado
  - Montana
  - North Dakota
  - South Dakota
  - Utah
  - Wyoming
- **Regional CI Office**  
Denver, CO  
(303)312-6312  
1-800-227-8917

[http://www.epa.gov/  
region08/superfund/](http://www.epa.gov/region08/superfund/)



# EPA Region 9

- Arizona
- California
- Hawaii
- Nevada
- Guam
- American Samoa
- Trust Territories
- Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

## ■ **Regional CI Office**

San Francisco, CA  
(415) 744-2178  
1-800-231-3075

<http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/sfund>

# EPA Region 10

- Alaska
- Idaho
- Oregon
- Washington
- **Regional CI Office**  
Seattle, WA  
(206) 553-1352  
1-800-424-4372

[http://www.epa.gov/  
region10/](http://www.epa.gov/region10/)

# Additional Sources of Information

- Superfund Hotline: **1-800-424-9346**
  - ▶ **TDD: 1-800-553-7672**

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hotline/index.htm>
- EPA Homepage: <http://www.epa.gov>
- EPA Superfund Homepage:  
<http://www.epa.gov/supefund/index.htm>
- EPA Superfund "Community Tools" Homepage  
<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/citizens>

# **State/Local/Tribal/Regional EPA Information**

- Space to Add Desired /State/  
Local/Tribal/Regional EPA  
Information Pertaining to Specific  
Site or Community Audience